



State of Arizona
Department of Education

Tom Horne
Superintendent of
Public Instruction

Special Education Monitoring Alert



March 2010

Alert to Special Education Directors: Monitoring Update for 2010

The ESS monitoring system was revised in 2009 to increase the focus on data in addition to procedural compliance requirements for each PEA. While we continue to maintain the 6 year cycle, activities tied to year 4 of the cycle are divided according to data outcomes. The Arizona Monitoring Manual describes in detail the three options for monitoring activities in year 4: data review; self-assessment; and on-site. The analysis of your data will result in the determination of the PEA monitoring activity.

One specific item that will have an increased emphasis in 2010-2011 will be measurable annual goals. The evaluation of student progress is closely tied to meaningful, measurable goals. The lack of specific, measurable goals impacts a student's ability to receive FAPE. In order to assess student progress the annual goals must be clear and written in an objective manner. The mathematical language used in the baseline and the goal must be the same measurement used to report progress. Because this is a FAPE impacting item, any identified non-compliance related to annual goals will require correction within 60 calendar days following the written notification of findings to the PEA. All on-site monitorings will review the compliance status of measurable annual goals during the monitoring. Depending on the area of focus for those PEAs participating in a self-assessment monitoring, measurable annual goals may be a component of the student file form used.

ESS has a concentrated focus on secondary transition. There are now eight required components to Indicator 13 (secondary transition) and all are OSEP compliance items. This means that all eight components are required to be in 100% compliance. The Arizona Monitoring Manual offers guidance related to the specific compliance requirements and the ESS Transition Specialists are in PEAs conducting training throughout the year. If training for your staff is needed, contact your assigned ESS Program Specialist and they will help to facilitate training. Also, you can find dates for training already scheduled by going to the Calendar of Events on the ESS Web site at www.ade.az.gov/ess.

As always, please contact your assigned Specialist with any questions related to special education. The Specialists are listed on the ESS Web site at www.ade.az.gov/ess/programsupport or in the individual regional office listings on the Web site.